

### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The counterplate and/or sleeve are modified to reduce or eliminate distortion in the counterplate in a laser welded fluid bearing design. It is known to directly weld the counterplate which lies across the end of the shaft and the thrust plate to a wall or shoulder of the sleeve in which the counterplate is fit. The radial stiffness of the sleeve is weakened by cutting grooves or the like at or near the interface between the sleeve wall and the counterplate, or on the outer diameter of the sleeve wall to essentially weaken the sleeve wall. This weakening of the sleeve wall prevents bowing or distortion of the counterplate being imposed by the sleeve.

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